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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

333 W. Nye Lane, Room 138
Carson City, Nevada 89706

August 25, 2004

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION

The Administrator, Division of Environmental Protection, Carson City, Nevada is issuing the following notice of proposed action under the Nevada Revised Statutes and the Clean Water Act. The Administrator has received a complete application for a groundwater discharge permit, NEV2004521, from the following applicant:

San Emidio Agrigate, Inc.
P.O. Box 40
Empire, Nevada 89405

The Applicant proposes to land apply Class B biosolids and to compost waste activated sludge (WAS) supplied by the Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency (TTSA) at Orient Farms. Orient Farms is located in Pershing and Washoe Counties, 25 miles north of Gerlach on Highway 34. The Applicant is currently authorized to compost TTSA WAS at this site under temporary permit TNEV2004323.

The permit will limit the Applicant to accepting a combined annual maximum of 5,000 wet metric tons of biosolids and WAS. The biosolids application rate per acre shall be determined by the agronomic uptake rate of the crop to be planted in the application fields. To be eligible for land application, the biosolids must meet at least the Class B standards and pollutant concentration limits. To be defined as biosolids, and therefore eligible for land application, the WAS must be further processed. The Applicant has proposed composting to meet the biosolids definition. The proposed permit will authorize the use of this compost at Orient Farms. Off-site use of the compost will require demonstration of adequate pathogen reduction and may require additional permit(s).

On the basis of preliminary review of the requirements of the Nevada Revised Statutes and the Clean Water Act, as amended, and implementing regulations, the Administrator proposes to issue the permit to discharge, NEV2004521, for a five (5) year period subject to certain effluent limitations.

Persons wishing to comment upon or object to the proposed determinations by the Administrator regarding the permit or request a hearing pursuant to the Nevada Administrative Code, Water Pollution Control should submit their comments or request, in writing, within thirty (30) days either in person or by mail to:

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Division of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Pollution Control
333 West Nye Lane
Carson City, Nevada 89706-0851

Comments or objections must be received within the thirty (30) day comment period, which begins on the date of this publication. Comments and/or hearing requests postmarked or received via facsimile or e-mail before 5:00 PM September 24, 2004 will be considered in the formulation of final determination(s) regarding the application. If written comments indicate a significant degree of public interest in the proposed permit, the Administrator shall hold a public hearing. A public notice of such hearing will be issued not less than thirty (30) days prior to the hearing date.

If no hearing is held and the determinations of the Administrator are substantially changed from the tentative determinations, the Administrator will give public notice of the revised determinations. Additional comments and objections will be considered at that time.

The application, proposed permit, comments received, and other information are on file and may be copied or copies may be obtained by writing to the above address or by calling Bruce Holmgren of the Bureau of Water Pollution Control at (775) 687-9423, or at bholmgre@nedp.nv.gov. The office facsimile number is (775) 687-4684. For further information, the fact sheet for this project can be viewed at the following website address: <http://ndep.nv.gov/admin/public.htm>.